

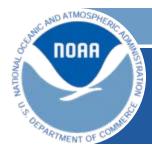
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION



NOAA Views on SAB Climate Working Group Review of NOAA's draft National Climate Service Strategy

30 July 2008
Tom Karl (updated from a Koblinsky to VADM brief on 7/11/08)



Message from Workshop Participants



SAB Climate Working Group retreat gathered over 80 participants from a wide range of sectors including federal, state, regional, local, private and academic to review NOAA's Strategy for a National Climate Service.

- Positive feedback on NOAA taking the initiative to promote a NCS and efforts to date
- Community is engaged, optimistic, and ready to contribute to the evolution of climate services
- The scope of a successful NCS exceeds that of the draft Strategic Plan
- Some skepticism was expressed as to NOAA's ability to lead



CWG Recommended Approach



Climate Working Group Review Committee will likely recommend the following:

- Develop options for the next administration to consider in creating a National Climate Service, based on a common set of principles or objectives
 - 1. Create a NCS Federation
 - 2. Create a NCS with NOAA as the lead agency
 - 3. Create a federally sponsored non-profit
 - 4. Create a NOAA National Weather and Climate Service
- Convene a Coordinating Committee with Tiger Teams (5-8 members, diverse representation) to develop a report analyzing the pros and cons of the suggested options



Potential NOAA Response



DUS and AAs agree on the following near-term actions and potential response to the CWG recommendations:

- 1. Support the SAB process for engaging the external community in the development of options for a National Climate Service
- 2. Refine NOAA's Climate Strategy in light of workshop discussions
 - Compare CWG recommended principles and objectives with those outlined in NOAA's Climate Strategy paper to determine gaps in goals and capabilities
 - Identify operational focus areas for NOAA
 - Determine the boundaries of NOAA's climate services
 - Increase engagement with external partners
- 3. Continue internal analysis of NOAA's structural options for implementing NOAA's climate strategy and improving the coordination and integration of NOAA's existing climate services
 - Conduct inventory of climate capabilities and skills that currently exist across NOAA
 - Develop internal organization structure options for NOAA leadership review



Proposed Approach



Tiger Team Formation

- NOAA will oversee the creation of the tiger teams and provide management and guidance of the teams in consultation with NOAA DAA Oversight Group
- External Chair will be selected by NOAA
 - NOAA would nominate technical advisors to each tiger team and provide Executive Secretariat support.
 - Participants of the Vail Meeting may be most appropriate candidates for coleads
- All other members (5-8) of the 4 tiger teams will be selected by NOAA
 - Members will represent a broad cross-section of stakeholders
 - CWG members may or may not necessarily be members of any team
 - Membership will be exclusive to NOAA (except for support)



Proposed Approach



Role of the tiger teams

- 1-2 members of each tiger team will be asked to participate in the drafting of the overall report as recommended by the CWG review and submit it to the SAB
 - Report will include: definition of a Climate Service (CS), why a CS is needed, and metrics for success
- Each tiger team will draft a report providing an evaluation of one of the options presented by the CWG Review
 - Overall report will incorporate these evaluations of options
- The CWG will submit the final overall report to the SAB for October SAB meeting
- NOAA staff will provide support to the effort as needed (e.g. reference material), but at a level that maintains independence and innovation of the teams
- The report would then follow normal SAB procedures



Follow-up



NOAA will use the report in concert with ongoing in-house work related to Option 2 (NOAA leads a National Climate Service):

- Climate capabilities within NOAA being assessed
- Impact of changes across the organization

Programmatic focus of a National Climate Service (NCS):

- Overarching substantive focus of the NCS
 - What major national problems or challenges can be addressed only (or optimally) through the development of a NCS?
- User / customer focus
 - Who are the customers and what needs will be served through a NCS?
 - How to structure service delivery channels within a NCS?
- National Research Council Climate Change study and national summit
 - How can the upcoming NRC Climate Change study and national summit tie into this effort?
- Climate Change Science Program Unified Synthesis Product
 - Is a NOAA NCS consistent with pathways for improved decisions as identified in USP?